50X1-HUM

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
CD NO.

COUNTRY	USSR	DATE OF INFORMATION	1951
SUBJECT	Scientific - Miscellaneous, expeditions, institute		
HOW PUBLISHED	Daily newspapers	DATE DIST.	7 Apr 1952
WHERE PUBLISHED	USSR	NO. OF PAGES	4
DATE PUBLISHED	11 Nov - 29 Dec 1951		
LANGUAGE	Russian	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated

DATA ON USSR SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS, AS OF NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1951

PROSPECT FOR BUILDING MATERIALS ALONG VOLGA -- Yerevan, Kommunist, 11 Nov 51

The expedition of the Geological Institute, Academy of Sciences Armenian SSR, has returned to Yerevan from Kamyshin on the Volga.

Since August, the expedition, headed by G. Bagdasaryan, Candidate of Geologicomineralogical Sciences, has been prospecting for and studying deposits of construction materials needed for the building of the Stalingrad hydroelectric project.

More than 200 samples of sandstone were collected. These were sent to the Scientific Research Institute of Structures and Construction Materials, Academy of Sciences Armenian SSR, for determination of their physical and structural qualities. Some of them will also be subjected to mineralogical analysis in the laboratories of the Geological Institute.

SURVEY SALT DEPOSITS IN CANAL AREAS -- Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 17 Nov 51

An expedition of the Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry imeni N. S. Kurnakov, Academy of Sciences USSR, has carried out a detailed investigation of the Stalingrad and Main Turkmen canal routes. It was interested in the nature and composition of salt deposits observed in these areas.

Doctors of Sciences I. N. Lepeshkov, I. G. Druzhinin, and N. P. Luzhnaya, leaders of the expedition, told the Scientific Council of the institute that they had gathered extensive materials which will permit finding ways for national economic utilization of the salt supplies and also devising methods for prevention of water and soil salinization.

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION					
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI							

ESTIMATE WILD LIFE RESOURCES IN KURILE ISLANDS -- Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 16 Nov 51

The expedition of the Sakhalin Affiliate, Academy of Sciences USSR, to the Kurile Islands has returned to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Doctor of Biological Sciences B. N. Vasin, head of the expedition, related the following in an interview with a Tass correspondent:

The purpose of our expedition was to acquaint ourselves with the commercial fauna of the islands; in particular, to estimate the fur-bearing animal resources and to study the possibilities for introducing new forms of fur-bearing animals to the islands. Our study established that the islands are poor in commercial animals as a result of predatory Japanese exploitation over a long period of time. For example, sable, sea beaver, and fur seal, which were once found in the Kuriles, have disappeared.

The expedition examined the conditions necessary for introducing and propagating on many islands such animals as squirrel, sable, raccoon, spotted deer, and mink. Climatic conditions are favorable and feed supplies are adequate for such an attempt.

SUM UP AID GIVEN BY KAZAKH SCIENTISTS -- Leningradskaya Pravda, 14 Nov 51

The Council for Study of the Productive Forces of Kazakhstan under the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR has added up the results of the aid extended to the great construction projects by scientists of the republic. A special conference was called for this purpose.

N. F. Kolotilin, chief of the Caspian Complex Expedition of the Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR, related that his expedition explored about 5 million hectares in West-Kazakhstan and Gur'yev oblasts between the Volga and Ural rivers. About 6,000 soil and water chemical analyses were made. More than 5,000 meters of test holes were drilled. Materials were collected to aid in planning irrigation systems.

I. S. Shcheblykin, chief of the Turkmen Detachment, Institute of Geological Sciences, Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR, said that his detachment traveled 6,000 kilometers, covering the route from the Tokmak-Ata Islands to the Sultan-Uiz-Dag Mountains along both banks of the Amu-Dar'ya. Eight deposits of construction stone, sand, clay, gravel, and gypsum were found. On the basis of these, the Administration for Construction of the Main Turkmen Canal has created the Sultan-Uiz-Dag Construction Area

BRING MEDICINAL PLANTS FROM KAZAKHSTAN -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 24 Nov 51

The expedition of the All-Union Scientific Research Chemicopharmaceutical Institute has returned to Moscow from Kazakhstan. The first expedition was sent to Kazakhstan in 1926. Since then, the institute has sent an expedition to Kazakhstan every year, since the republic is the medicinal industry's richest raw materials base in the country. F. S. Massagetov, chief of the institute's Chemicobotanical Laboratory, has headed all of the expeditions.

Many new plants having medicinal value were found by the expedition. These included: Anabasis aphylla, source of anabasine, which is used against agricultural pests; spherophysa, source of spherophysine, which is used in medicine as a means for stopping hemorrhages; ephedra, from which the Soviet ephedrine, an important medicinal substance, is derived. Preparations made from many other Kazakh plants are successfully being used in medical practice.

This year, the expedition operated mainly in the Chu-Ili Mountains and reached the foothills running toward the southwestern part of Lake Balkhash. The flora in the Kara-Tau Mountains was given special attention, since it is the most interesting and diversified in the republic.

The scientists collected about 70 plants, including more than 20 which are used by kolkhoz workers in the preparation of popular remedies for various illnesses. These remedies will be studied in the institute.

COMPLETE NEW-TYPE SOIL MAP OF CASPIAN LOWLAND -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 25 Nov 51

The Soil Institute imeni Dokuchayev, Academy of Sciences USSR, has completed compilation of a map of the Caspian Lowland It depicts an area of about 15 million hectares.

The map was compiled according to a new method. Soils are divided into three groups: steppe soils, in which the ground water level is more than 8 meters below the surface; meadow steppe soils, in which the ground water level is from 3 to 8 meters below the surface; and meadow soils, in which the level is less than 3 meters below the surface. These groups are indicated by different colors, so that a glance at the map will indicate both the soil type and the depth at which ground water occurs.

The descriptive text which is to accompany the map is now being prepared in the institute.

PLAN CONSTRUCTION WORK IN TURKMEN CITY -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 2 Dec 51

The Turkmen Complex Expedition of Giprovodkhlopok (State Planning Institute for Cotton Irrigation), Ministry of Cotton Growing USSR, has arrived in Tashauz.

In December, the expedition members will be engaged in preparing plans for construction of a central material base, various plants, a wood-processing combine, and a large motor park, which are to be built in Tashauz in connection with construction of the Main Turkmen Canal.

The expedition also faces much road survey work. The first surveys for road routes will be made in the areas lying between Tashauz and Khodzheyli, between Kokchaga and Kubagau, and between Khodzheyli and Kunya-Urgench. More than 200 kilometers of roads are involved in these initial surveys.

At present, the expedition is composed of two types of detachments, industrial site survey detachments and road survey detachments. In addition, a group of specialists is busy exploring the possibilities for an open-pit mining industry.

INVESTIGATE METEORITE CRATER IN TADZHIK SSR -- Stalinabad, Kommunist Tadzhikistana, 29 Dec 51

In 1926, geologist Kh. Klyavin came upon a large crater in the eastern Pamir Mountains. He photographed the crater and in 1927 published an article about it in the periodical Nauka i Tekhnika.

Local legends have it that 200-300 years ago a huge fiery star fell from the heavens and opened the crater.

In 1951, a group of scientists traveled into the eastern Pamirs to see the crater. Investigation of this crater was of scientific interest, because there had been only two other places in the USSR where meteorite craters are found: the Tunguska craters in central Siberia and the Estonian craters on Ezel' Island in the Baltic Sea.

In Murgab, the inhabitants directed the scientists to the crater. It is located in a wide high-mountain valley, 3,700 meters above sea level. The crater is 75 meters in diameter, about 15-18 meters deep. Traces of burns are clearly visible in the spurs of the Myn-Khodzhir Massif which adjoins the crater.

Laboratory tests show that the rocks have been greatly enriched with iron and that due to the effect of momentary very high temperatures vitreous masses have formed in them. These tests indicate that the crater was formed by an iron meteorite striking the earth.

A second crater about 16 meters in diameter was found 250 meters south of the main crater.

It is planned to continue exploration of the crater in 1952, particularly to sink bore holes in an effort to find the meteorite mass.

At the coming Fourth All-Union Meteoritic Conference in Moscow, the Committee on Meteorites, Academy of Sciences Tadzhik SSR, will report on the crater in the eastern Pamirs.

- E N D -